

political goals. For example, he was behind the 1974 school children massacre in Israel's northern town of Ma'alot. Ultimately he was unwilling or incapable to lay to rest the Palestinian case and cause, assuming the normalcy of civil life that his own people might be rehabilitated and build the political, economic and social infrastructure necessary for the emergence of their democratic society and a viable state that would not threaten Israel nor Jordan from which his troublesome cohorts were evicted by the late King Hussein in "Black September" of 1970. Unlike the likes of South African Nelson Mandela who knew how to leave and live with a painful past, charting a new course for the sake of his people, Arafat would not shed his ubiquitous military uniform and the old persona of violent defiance. He thus allowed the terrorist within him to win over the peacemaker he triumphantly became for a brief time following his "resurrection" by Israel from obscure exile in Tunisia. How sad that the honor of the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize could not keep him in check.

Admittedly, I was among those who applauded Arafat when he and his peace partner, Yitzhak Rabin of blessed memory, shook hands in the South Lawn of the White House on that bright day of promise in September 1993. I wanted to believe that Arafat, whose hands were stained with the blood of so many of my brethren, could rise to the precious opportunity to redeem himself and restore dignity to his people while bringing peace to a beleaguered Israel.

At this new crossroads of the post-Arafat era, will the Palestinian Authority wisely reach out to refashion itself sans the oppressive, conflict-ridden and corrupt style of its deceased leader, allowing its permanent neighbor Israel to be a blessing to her?

INTRODUCTION OF TEA LU (H.R. 3) HIGHWAY, TRANSIT AND HIGH- WAY SAFETY AUTHORIZATION BILL

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, on February 9, 2005, I introduced H.R. 3, the Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users, TEA LU. This is a 6-year authorization of Federal highway, transit and highway safety programs. These programs are all currently operating under an extension since the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, TEA 21, expired on September 30, 2003. The current extension—which is the sixth extension of these programs—will expire on May 31, 2005. We must pass this bill and successfully complete conference with the Senate before the Memorial Day recess begins. We must get this job done. American jobs and the continuing growth of the U.S. economy directly depend on the successful enactment of this authorization.

On February 7, 2005, President Bush introduced his fiscal year 2006 budget. I was pleased that the budget includes an updated reauthorization proposal funding Federal highway, transit and highway safety programs at \$283.9 billion over 6 years in guaranteed funding. This is a \$28 billion increase above the proposal introduced by the administration 2 years ago, and I applaud the administration's recognition of the pressing needs of America's highways and transit systems in this higher

number. The bill I introduced also funds the same programs at \$283.9 billion in guaranteed funding over 6 years, 2004 through 2009. I strongly believe that we have a much better chance of moving this legislation quickly in the 109th Congress, now that we are working with the same top line funding level that the President has endorsed.

The other reason that this \$283.9 billion guaranteed funding level may sound familiar is that it was the total 6-year guaranteed funding level that was under discussion in last year's conference negotiations. I am committed to getting back to conference as fast as possible.

There are no major policy changes between this bill and last year's authorization bill, which passed the House by a vote of 357 to 65 on April 2, 2004. The policies in H.R. 3 represent months of intense negotiations within the committee, with other House Members, and with stakeholder organizations.

I will work closely with the leadership, the Ways and Means Committee chairman, and the chairman of the Budget Committee as we further refine this bill and prepare for committee markup and floor passage. I urge the House membership's strong support of TEA LU, particularly since we now have the administration's endorsement of the total funding level.

Let's get this job done, so that our Nation's commerce can move quickly and efficiently, commuters can get to work faster and easier, waste less gas sitting in traffic, and spend more time with their families. States, communities, workers and industries around the country are waiting for us to act on this reauthorization. Let's get it done.

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Chairman, with the passage of H.R. 418, The REAL ID Act of 2005, on Thursday, February 10, 2005, we took a much-needed step in ensuring that we do not have repeat terrorist attacks similar to those witnessed on September 11, 2001. This bill, at a minimal, will make certain that individuals who attempt to board planes will have to provide proof that they are who they claim to be.

While I believe that this is a positive, I do remain concerned over the usurping of what has historically been a right authorized to the States. I will continue to diligently work with the State of Nevada to guarantee that there remains limited infringement by the Federal Government on their right to legislate.

Further, Mr. Chairman, I offer my assistance to the State of Nevada in securing any grant funding that will be helpful in easing the burden that the State may incur during the period that it seeks to comply with the law.

Mr. Chairman, while I appreciate the House's action on this important bill, I want to remind my colleagues that it is vital that we continue to take a close examination of any piece of legislation that comes before our chamber that may infringe on rights guaranteed to the States.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the centennial of Rotary International. On February 23, 1905, four Chicago businessmen, Paul Harris, Silvester Schiele, Gustavus Loehr and Hiram Shorey, formed the first Rotary Club, which they hoped would foster fellowship and community service. Three years after the first Rotary Club was established, the second club was founded in San Francisco. Rotary now has a presence in 165 countries around the world.

Guided by the principle of "service above self," Rotary has devised a four way test for its members. Rotarians ask of the things they say or do: Is it the truth, is it fair to all concerned, will it build good will and better friendships and will it be beneficial to all concerned. Rotarians perform all actions regardless of political affiliation or ethnicity.

Our distinguished colleague the Honorable Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill was widely known for his friendly admonition that all politics is local. This is true for Rotary whose global reach begins at the local level. In 1985, local Rotary Club members pledged to stamp out polio with the PolioPlus campaign. Since then, Rotarians have raised hundreds of millions of dollars to vaccinate people all over the world with the goal of eliminating polio by the end of this year. Rotary International is also playing an active role in responding to the tsunami and earthquake victims in South and Southeast Asia. I am proud to announce that Rotary District 5150, of which my Congressional District is part of, has responded by donating over \$50,000 to the relief effort in the month following the disaster. Rotary District 5150 has set a noble goal to raise \$250,000 for tsunami relief, and is also attempting to establish a "Rotary village" of permanent dwellings in Sri Lanka.

The Rotary Club is also the largest privately funded source of international scholarships. Each year, over 1,100 university students receive some \$26 million in scholarships for the Rotary Ambassador Scholarship. Since its inception in 1947, over 30,000 extraordinary men and women from over 100 nations have benefited from the Rotary Ambassador Scholarship and have used such a wonderful opportunity to promote global understanding and solidarity. Each year, Rotary District 5150 contributes to this deserving program by sending an exceptional student abroad with an Ambassador Scholarship. It is through these generous grants and other scholarships, that the Rotary empowers a new generation of leaders, furthers peace in the global community and upholds service as the highest of ideals.

Mr. Speaker, because Rotary International recognizes the importance of a global worldview, it has recently launched Rotary